UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/631*
7 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to inform you that the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia continue to invest maximum efforts to bring about a political solution to Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, based on the principles of equality of all citizens and national communities, autonomy for Kosovo and Metohija and full respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Along these lines, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has accepted the principles of the G-8, including a United Nations presence, the mandate and other modalities which would be established by a Security Council resolution in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

A precondition for the achievement of such a solution is an urgent cessation of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the refocusing of the attention on political issues with the aim of achieving a stable and lasting political solution.

Notwithstanding the peace efforts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and other countries and actors, NATO continues its criminal aggression, intensifying it with every passing day. The consequences have been disastrous, as thousands of civilians, including women, children and the sick and the elderly, are being killed systematically and the infrastructure of the country, including hospitals, television and radio stations, old people's homes and the power grid and water supply systems, as well as refugee convoys and camps, are being destroyed, which, alongside the resultant ecological catastrophe, represents a crime against peace and humanity.

Scores of civilians have been killed in raids in the past three days alone. A total of 9 people were killed and 6 are unaccounted for, including children, while over 60 were wounded in a raid on a bridge and the market place at Varvarin. On 31 May, shortly after midnight, NATO planes struck the hospital

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

and sanatorium at Surdulica, killing 13 patients, mostly old and retired people and Serb refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is feared that the number could increase, as the clearing away of debris is still under way. A total of 10 people were killed and over 20 were wounded last night at Novi Pazar.

The latest tragic count bears witness to the humanitarian catastrophe that has been visited upon 11 million Yugoslavs and the ruthlessness of the NATO aggression, the victims of which are primarily civilians. The aggression is the principal obstacle to the quest for a political solution, and it undermines the political process.

Having made you aware of the position of my Government on the situation in and around Kosovo and Metohija and the tragic consequences of the NATO aggression against my country, I expect that, in the pursuit of its responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council will take all necessary measures to put an immediate end to the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with the aim of finding a political solution under the auspices of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter.

In apprising you that a letter of the same content has been addressed also to the Secretary-General, I kindly request you to have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.